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Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the following paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5:

This application claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 08/592,070, filed January 26, 1996 and of U.S. Serial No. 08/948,131, filed October 9, 1997 under U.S.C. §120, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the present application.

5  $\mu$ l/animal) treated with AEF/SN + vehicle or AEF/SN + sRAGE  
(100  $\mu$ g; day 5) was immunoprecipitated with anti-apoSAA IgG  
(5  $\mu$ g/ml), anti-RAGE IgG (5  $\mu$ g) or IgG from preimmune serum  
(5  $\mu$ g/ml) followed by SDS-PAGE/immunoblotting with  
10 anti-apoSAA IgG (1  $\mu$ g/ml; reduced 5-20% gel; 7I1) or  
anti-RAGE IgG (1  $\mu$ g/ml; reduced 10% gel; 7I2). Panel 1:  
lane 1, immunoprecipitation of plasma from AEF/SN + sRAGE  
mice with anti-RAGE IgG followed by immunoblotting with  
anti-apoSAA IgG; lane 2, immunoprecipitation of plasma from  
15 AEF/SN+sRAGE mice with preimmune IgG followed by  
immunoblotting with anti-apoSAA IgG; and, lane 3,  
immunoblotting of AEF/SN plasma with anti-apoSAA IgG. Panel  
2: lane 1, immunoprecipitation of plasma from AEF/SN+sRAGE  
mice with anti-apoSAA IgG followed by immunoblotting with  
20 anti-RAGE IgG; lane 2, immunoprecipitation of plasma from  
AEF/SN+sRAGE mice with preimmune IgG followed by  
immunoblotting with anti-RAGE IgG; and, lane 3,  
immunoblotting of purified sRAGE (1  $\mu$ g).  
Immunoprecipitation of plasma from AEF/SN mice not treated  
with sRAGE showed no detectable sRAGE and no evidence of  
SAA-sRAGE complex. \* indicates  $p < 0.01$ . Studies were  
repeated a minimum of three times, and there were five  
animals in experimental groups. Magnification: D x80; E  
x280; H x80.

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**Figure 8.** Dissociation constants for the interaction of RAGE  
with several peptides in solution evaluated by fluorescence.

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